

return home let's treat them with the respect they have earned and continue fighting for a guaranteed stream of benefits for all veterans.

HONORING C. STUART HUNT

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. C. Stuart Hunt for his outstanding service, tireless dedication and fruitful endeavors for Western New York.

Mr. Hunt served on the Board of Directors of Buffalo Place Inc. from 1991 through 2004. Buffalo Place enjoyed phenomenal growth during his tenure as Chairman from 1994 to 1998. During that time, Buffalo Place Inc. went from a \$1.8 million organization to a \$3.2 million organization.

Beginning in 1997, under Mr. Hunt's leadership and direction, a strong emphasis was placed on increasing funding for special event production in Downtown Buffalo. The success of the Thursday at the Square concert series positively impacted the Downtown economy, representing \$4.4 million annually.

Under Mr. Hunt's leadership, an annual weekend music festival on Buffalo's waterfront was conceived, Buffalo Place Rocks the Harbor. In addition, the Cars Sharing Main Street initiative became one of the top three priorities on the federal legislative agenda for Western New York.

In 1997, under Mr. Hunt's guidance, the Americorps Ranger Escort Program was launched and received federal funding until 2003 when it was eliminated. This important initiative continues today as the Buffalo Place Ranger Program. He also was involved in the Park N' Go Shuttle Program, converting major streets from one-way to two-way traffic and providing both on-street and off-street parking.

In his professional life, Mr. Hunt serves as Chairman of Hunt Commercial Real Estate, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hunt Real Estate, the largest commercial/residential real estate organization in Upstate New York.

With the purchase of the Brisbane Building in 1984, Stuart began a tireless restoration of this beautiful property. The building holds a special place in his heart, as his father, Charles Stanley Hunt, was a tenant in the Brisbane Building for almost 50 years. I'm proud that my district office is located at this historic site also.

Mr. Hunt's career spanned more than half a century. He is a consummate professional and gentleman. His work ethic and professionalism place him at the top of the list of the most well respected professional civic leaders of our time. His commitment to Downtown Buffalo has never wavered and future generations will benefit from and enjoy the fruits of his labor.

Mr. Hunt's college career was interrupted when he answered the call to serve his country. Mr. Hunt is a veteran of World War II and a 1947 graduate of Colgate University.

In addition to a successful civic and professional career, Stuart has enjoyed a wonderfully fulfilling personal life. On December 27, 1946, C. Stuart Hunt married the beautiful Jane Helfrich. They have enjoyed a full and rich life and were blessed with three sons and one daughter.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hunt touched the lives of so many Western New Yorkers and while he vacates his seat on the Board of Directors of Buffalo Place Inc., he will always remain a role model and mentor to the staff of Buffalo Place Inc. C. Stuart Hunt leaves a unique and indelible mark on Downtown Buffalo, as he will never be forgotten.

Thank you, Stuart, for your strong leadership, diligent effort and personal commitment to our community. Thanks also for your friendship.

RECOGNIZING GARRETT KENT, BRANNAN SMITH, NICHOLAS MANLEY, AND WILL WATTS

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the achievements of four outstanding young men from Griffin, Georgia: Garrett Kent, Brannan Smith, Nicholas Manley, and Will Watts of Griffin Christian Academy. These young men recently visited our Nation's Capital while working on their Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge for the Boy Scouts. During their trip they studied the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Federal Government. They learned about our system of checks and balances and how our government is financed. In addition, each of these Scouts wrote to me to share their views on important national issues.

I am proud that these young men are learning about our government and the freedoms and principles on which our Nation was founded. I think we can all learn from the example of Garrett, Brannan, Nicholas and Will, and remember to learn about the great history of our Nation. I encourage everyone to read the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, or to come to the United States Capitol and walk through its storied halls. All Americans should be active citizens and be conscious of this magnificent creation, and our duty to serve it well. May God bless this great Nation.

RECOGNIZING WORK OF MR. PERLEY BEANE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Mr. Perley Beane, Maine's Director of Economic and Community Development, for more than 40 years in public service at the federal, state and local level.

A graduate of Waterville High School and Thomas College, Perley's first job was as a teacher in Jackman. After working as a business manager, Perley was appointed as the first director of the Waterville Public Housing Authority. He also served as director of the Maine Affordable Housing Alliance at the Department of Economic and Community Development before being appointed to his present position in Madison, Maine.

Perley has dedicated his life to bettering his community. He has served as a board mem-

ber for such organizations as The Salvation Army, the Waterville Housing Authority, the Somerset County Jail Committee, the Somerset County Rural Housing Replacement Committee, the Somerset County Economic Development Corporation, the Waterville Zoning Board and the Kennebec Valley Community Action Program.

Though Perley's retirement is well deserved and begins a new and exciting chapter in his life, it also signifies that Maine is losing one of its most valued service providers. His dedication to the people of Maine has been a blessing for our State, and has improved the lives of countless Mainers. I am both honored and privileged to pay tribute to Perley for his hard work and commitment to the people of Maine. I offer my sincere appreciation on behalf of the entire State.

RECOGNIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF CADET STEVEN J. SARKEES TO CHIEF PETTY OFFICER, USNSCC

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Steven J. Sarkees, on his appointment to Chief Petty Officer in the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. While a high school senior in Grand Island, New York, Cadet Sarkees is a member of the Sullivans Division, Naval Sea Cadet Corps located in Buffalo, New York. Cadet Sarkees' appointment to Chief Petty Officer is bestowed on less than one half of one percent of the ten thousand Naval Sea Cadets in the program, and is a reflection of his exceptional leadership skills and mastery of seamanship training.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was established in 1958 in order to provide youth with a drug-free and gang-free environment where individuals between the ages of 11 and 17 could develop an appreciation for the United States' naval history, customs, traditions and its significant role in national defense. The goal of the Sea Cadet Corps is to encourage young people to develop an interest in basic seamanship and teach Cadets patriotism, courage, self-confidence and self-reliance. Chief Petty Officer is the highest level a Cadet can attain and reflects years of hard work and dedication.

Cadet Sarkees has developed into a mature leader, and is a fine example of what the Sea Cadet Corps strives to develop in young people. He has earned his appointment to Chief Petty Officer by completing a challenging course load, passing a leadership exam, completing 6 months time in rank, and attending 2 weeks of advanced training. Again, Cadet Sarkees is a positive role model to his fellow cadets, and exemplifies the best qualities of a patriotic American.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cadet Sarkees for his significant achievement as a member of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.